Minutes Madawaska Valley Public Library Board Meeting
April 29, 2024 at 3:30 pm (online/in-person)

Present: Bill Houle, Claire Sullivan, Mary Conway, Mary Blank, Kevin Quade
Online: Hanna Domagala
Regrets: Betty Kirby

1. Chair Bill Houle called the meeting to order at 3:27pm
2. Acknowledgement Statement: ***"I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. We recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Metis, Inuit and all Indigenous peoples whose presence continues to enrich our communities."***
3. Declaration of conflict of interest: None
4. Claire Sullivan approved the April 29, 2024 agenda. Seconded by Kevin Quade. Carried.
5. Mary Blank approved the minutes of the March 25, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Claire Sullivan. Carried.
6. Business arising from the minutes
    a. Bill Houle approved policies GOV-08, GOV-09, and GOV-11. Seconded by Hanna Domagala. Carried.
    b. Library Enhancement Sub-Committee Chair Hanna Domagala provided a summary of the meeting with CAO Sue Klatt on April 19, 2024. It was agreed that there would be a special meeting of the Board in early June to further narrow down the needs of the library.
    c. It was confirmed that the GIC funds were invested in a redeemable GIC as per the motion made March 25, 2024.
    d. Mary Conway made a motion to apply for a grant to cover the cost of a consultant to produce a business case/needs assessment, instead of using our reserve funds. Seconded by Kevin Quade. Carried; however, Bill Houle and Hanna Domagala abstained.
    e. MV Council passed a resolution to support Increased Funding to Libraries in Ontario, as per the request from the Town of Lincoln to Ontario councils.
    f. A tender has been accepted for replacement of Library ramp. Work is expected to begin in the fall 2024.
7. Correspondence:
    a. Board member Betty Kirby Letter submitted a letter of resignation to the Library Board.
        i) Bill Houle declared a vacant spot on the Board, with direction to the CEO to contact the CAO about filling the spot and consult OLS about an application for interested individuals.
8. Claire Sullivan approved the March Librarian's Report. Seconded by Mary Conway. Carried.

- The Algonquin College Community Employment Services held two pop ups in March – 6th and 21st. They are hoping to be at the library twice a month going forward. They are here for two hours and see approximately 3 people per session, depending on the client's needs.
- Book Club read *The Art of Racing in the Rain* in March. Everyone enjoyed this book told from the perspective of a dog.
- We held a Fiero Coding Club for 6 weeks from Feb 22 to March 28. We had 8 teens in attendance each week, improving their coding skills. They enjoyed coding, socializing, and an unhealthy snack each session!
- March Break was a busy week with programs Tuesday through Friday. Unfortunately, BIAK cancelled Tuesday's program due to a staffing issue; Laura quickly organized a program to celebrate Wildlife Week. Children made a turtle craft and listened to stories, as well as took home colouring sheets and printables. We had 21 children plus guardians, which was over capacity for

the basement space. Wednesday we held two sessions of Let's Talk Science – one at the arena (29 kids, 11 adults) and one in BLR (11 kids, 5 adults). Participants made beaver lodges and learned about beaver dams. This is always a successful program, that is free and is delivered by university students. Thursday Laura and Madeline ran a "Copy a Master" art program which was a great hit and attracted many ages. We had 12 children plus guardians. We had a pizza party in the evening for our Fiero Code Club. On Friday we had a St. Patrick's party which was very popular, again filling the basement with 14 children plus guardians! Unfortunately, there were instances where we had to turn away families who had not registered in advance because we did not have space to accommodate more bodies. Over the course of the week, we turned away about 10 families. If we had more space, we could have accommodated them. It is a dilemma to host a program at another facility, and require staffing of two locations, or host a program at the library, increase our traffic, but have limited space.

- Our walking group continues to meet every Friday at 1pm at the library. We have a good group of 4-5 members who regularly attend. They enjoy a walk around town and then socialize at the library. This has been a great program for older adults and newcomers to reduce isolation.
- A Service Canada pop up on March 19 was overwhelming busy – the representative served 12 people in 3.5 hours, and suggested they hold a pop up more regularly to meet the demand from the community. The next pop up is May 7th, we already have 2 people registered.
- Lego Club is a popular program. We had 12 attendees this month.
- We had a very successful Easter Egg Photo Hunt on March 30. A couple of families were lined up outside the door waiting with their photos before we opened at 10am! Thank you to the township for donating goodies for the treat bags. And to Elliot Biernaski for hiding the photos at 7am! We hid 24 photos around town in public places, and handed out one goodie bag per family. We look forward to repeating this scavenger hunt next year.
- Also on March 30, we were treated to an author talk by Jean Pierre Chabot for his new book *1894: the Deeper Story of Moose Factory's Great Flood*. It was an excellent presentation about the process of ice break up. We had a small turnout of 5 people, but it allowed for an intimate discussion about the area and its history. The author was able to sell some copies of his book. Everyone enjoyed the talk, and his book has been checked out ever since.

Circulation Statistics 2024

	March
Library visits	854
Items checked out	1112
Computer sessions	80
Personal devices	7
Memberships	
New MV*	11
New BLR	1
Renewals MV*	27
Renewals BLR	3
Interlibrary Loans	
Total	68
ILL borrowed	44
ILL lent	24
OverDrive/Libby	

ebooks	286
audiobooks	138
magazines	205
E-Resources	
Word Travel	0
Consumer Health Complete	0
Mango Languages	17
Novelist	11
Kanopy	22
	40
Fiero Code	12
CBC Corner	2
*includes non-resident & summer	

9. Mary Conway approved the Treasurer's Financial Report for March 2024. Seconded by Hanna Domagala. Carried.

Balance Forward	74,384.26
Deposits	117,197.17
Expenses	13,708.00
Bank Balance	**177,873.43**
Outstanding	-2,501.87
Book Balance	**175,371.56**
Growth Savings	8,578.46
	183,950.02

10. New Business:
    a. No one attended the OLS Board Assembly Meeting due to schedule conflicts. However, we will aim to attend in the future, and will review the recording, if available.
    b. Fundraising: Preparations for Cabin Fever Trivia Night for May 3 are underway. Door prizes should be picked up this week and brought to the library. Bill Houle has retired from writing trivia questions.
11. Next meeting date Monday, May 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm.
12. Mary Conway made a motion to adjourn at 4:30pm.

Upcoming Meetings Dates:
May 27, 2024 June 24, 2024 Sept. 30, 2024
No meetings in July and August

_____ _____
William Houle, Chair Natalie Barrington, CEO/Secretary